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P.O. Box 2604
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MHQ-6019
10 February 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, London Bureau

INFO : Chief, Abidjan Bureau
Chief, Austria Bureau
Chief, Bangkok Bureau
Chief, Cologne Unit
Chief, Gulf Bureau
Chief, Nicosia Bureau
Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Panama Bureau
Chief, Paraguay Bureau
Chief, Tel Aviv Bureau

THROUGH : Chief, Monitoring Operations Division

FROM :
Planning and Projects Officer, MOD

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SUBJECT : London Bureau Emergency Coverage Plan

REFERENCE : MHQ-5023 -- Request for Emergency Coverage Plans

1. Attached is the emergency coverage plan for London Bureau drawn up by MOD as a guide to help the field bureaus and headquarters components in the event of the impairment of the operations of that largest of bureaus. The very broad extent of London's coverage compounds the problems that arise from a loss of coverage at any bureau. MOD realizes that a multiplicity of factors will affect any transfer of coverage and that many of these are best dealt with at the time of the outage. This plan is mainly intended as a tool, and is not meant to be rigid. The plan is based on a worst-case scenario, postulating a total loss of London Bureau's services, including communications. In less damaging cases, the reduced needs for support can be worked out based on this plan.

2. Much of the content of this plan is based on the emergency coverage supplied or offered by the bureaus during the August 1985 British industrial action. The remainder is based on known abilities of the bureaus and current coverage.

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10 February 1986

London Bureau Emergency Coverage Plan

In the event of interruption of London Bureau operations, and subject to changes depending on the situation at the time:

1. AUSTRIA Bureau would take:

A. 1) USSR: Moscow DS, TASS English (backstopping OW); 2) Yugoslavia: TANJUG English/Serbo-Croatian; 3) Czechoslovakia: CTK English, Prague DS (increase existing Class A coverage); 4) Hungary: MTI English, Budapest DS (increase existing Class A coverage); 5) FRG: Munich DS; 6) Poland: PAP English, Warsaw DS.

B. Personnel Shifts: One editor; several PMU Russian monitors would be needed if outage prolonged.

C. Equipment Needed: None.

2. OKINAWA Bureau would take:

A. 1) USSR: Moscow TV (Class A coverage); Moscow Pressfax; TASS English (AU to backstop), TASS Russian (Cyrillic); share coverage of Moscow in English with PA (other bureaus may be asked to contribute, as manpower permits).

B. Personnel shifts: At least three PMU Russian translators, one editor.

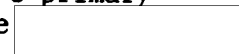
C. Equipment needed: None.

3. COLOGNE Unit would:

A. Increase coverage of East Berlin DS and Voice of GDR as appropriate.

B. Personnel shifts: None.

C. Equipment needed: None. A loss of London's communications circuits would also disable Cologne's primary circuit, but alternate communications are available



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4. GULF Bureau would take:

A. 1) Afghanistan: Kabul DS Dari (with Islamabad phonepatch if needed); 2) Kuwait: KUNA Arabic/English, Kuwait DS; 3) Iran: IRNA English, Tehran DS (increase existing coverage); 4) Morocco: Rabat DS (backstopping NC).

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3. To avoid being unwieldy, this plan is limited to Class A coverage. The bureaus will, of course, want to optimise their coverage from all categories of coverage according to circumstances.

4. In order to have an emergency coverage plan in effect quickly, this plan is being issued without specific prior coordination with the bureaus. However, it is expected that there will be changes based on the bureaus' comments, which MOD encourages. MOD will issue an update to this plan when all the input has been received and collated. Updates will then be due at 6-month intervals, as stated in Ref.

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Attachment:

LD Emergency Coverage Plan

cc: Ch/LD, Ch/AB, Ch/AU, Ch/BK, Ch/CU, Ch/GF, Ch/NC, Ch/OW, Ch/PA, Ch/PY, Ch/TA, Ch/WSS, MOD Files (Plan 10-5)

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B. Personnel shifts: One editor, one Arabic monitor.

C. Equipment needed: None.

5. NICOSIA Bureau would take:

A. 1) Algeria: APS Arabic (if Algiers DS remains unmonitorable); 2) Libya: JANA English/Arabic, Tripoli DS, Tripoli VOGAH; 3) Morocco: MAP English/Arabic/French; Rabat DS (GF backstopping); 4) Tunisia: TAP Arabic/French.

B. Personnel Shifts: One or two PMU Arabic monitors; one editor.

C. Equipment needed: None.

6. PANAMA Bureau would:

A. 1) USSR: Share coverage of Moscow World Service English with OW; 2) Spain: Increase file from Madrid EFE Spanish; add Madrid International Spanish or English as needed; 3) FRG: Increase file from Hamburg DPA Spanish; 4) GDR: Add coverage of ADN English/Spanish services. (if ☐ is able to provide the indicated radio coverage, filing from this source would be minimal)

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B. Personnel Shifts: None.

C. Equipment needed: None.

7. ABIDJAN Bureau would:

A. 1) France: Increase filing from Paris Diplomatic Information Service French. Add Paris DS and Paris International French.

B. Personnel Shifts: None.

C. Equipment needed: None.

8. PARAGUAY Bureau would:

A. 1) Portugal: Take Lisbon International Portuguese, English; 2) Spain: Backstop Panama's coverage of Madrid International Spanish.

B. 2) Personnel Shifts: None.

C. 3) Equipment needed: None.

9. All bureaus would increase filing on West Europe, especially from AFP. TEL AVIV and BANGKOK Bureaus would increase filing from BBC World Service English.

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10. Class A LOSSES would include: ADN German (received by landline); DPA German (unmonitorable at AU [redacted]); Warsaw TV (received by relay from West Berlin); Tunis DS; all primary-source coverage from Finland, Sweden, Denmark, and Norway; Lisbon DS; Madrid DS; Egyptian and Syrian publications (these could be picked up in the long term by one or more of the Mideast bureaus or Headquarters); French, Italian, Spanish, and British publications; Nouakchott Arabic.

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The services of the tabulating section would be lost, and would have to be assumed by Analysis Group. The production of the Mideast and South Asia Review would be passed to the Wire Service, though editors transferred from LD could do the writing.

11. ALTERNATIVES and Uncertainties: The cause of a complete cessation of operations at London Bureau would greatly affect shifts in coverage and the ability to transfer personnel. In an industrial action, the services of PMU personnel would still be available for short-term transfer. In a natural disaster, however, such help might be impossible. If communications and technicians are unaffected, PMU personnel might be able to carry on their functions unaffected, with no need to deploy to other bureaus. Also, in some situations, some or all English-language press services could continue to be printed and processed at London Bureau.

The levels of coverage at each of the receiving bureaus would naturally be adjusted according to manpower and the situations in each of the target countries. Modernization projects will create many more backstopping possibilities when they go into effect.

In addition, since East Africa Unit's communications pass through the BBC, it must be assumed that a complete loss of BBC's services would result in the loss of EAU's coverage. Abijdan, Mbabane, Gulf, and Jordan Bureaus would then have to implement backstopping plans for that Unit. (This problem will be dealt with in a separate plan)

An outage of London Bureau's communications would make it impossible for that bureau to act as relay point for telexed items from TA, JN, NC, AU, and GF bureaus when their primary circuits are out. Those bureaus would have to telex directly to FBIS Headquarters; this should present no technical problems.

12. VULNERABILITY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRIC POWER:

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B. There is an emergency generator operated by BBC available at the bureau.

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